CLAIMS

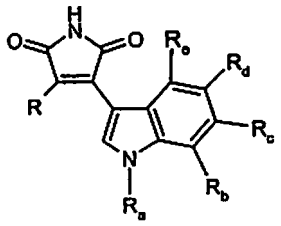
1. Use of a compound which is an inhibitor of PKC, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, for the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing diseases or disorders mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC, in particular allograft rejection, graft versus host disease, autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases, inflammatory diseases, cardiovascular diseases or cancer, wherein said compound possesses a selectivity for PKCα , PKCβ and optionally PKÇθ, over one or more of the other PKC isoforms of at least 10 fold, as measured by the ratio of the IC_{50} of the compound for a PKC which is not α and β, and optionally not θ, to the IC_{50} of the compound for the PKCα, PKCβ or PKÇ θ, respectively.

2. A compound which is an inhibitor of the PKC, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, wherein said compound possesses a selectivity for the PKC over one or more protein kinases which do not belong to the CDK-family, and a selectivity for the PKCα, PKCβ and optionally PKÇθ, over one or more of the other PKC isoforms of at least 10 fold, as measured according to claim 1.

3. A compound which is an inhibitor of the PKC, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, wherein said compound possesses a selectivity for PKCα, PKCβ and optionally PKÇθ, over one or more of the other PKC isoforms of at least 10 fold, and for which the ratio of the IC_{50} value as determined by Allogeneic Mixed Lymphocyte Reaction (MLR) assay to the IC_{50} value as determined by Bone Marrow proliferative (BM) assay is higher than 5.

4. A compound which is an inhibitor of the PKC, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, wherein said compound possesses a selectivity for the PKCα, PKCβ and PKÇθ, over one or more of the other PKC isoforms of at least 10 fold, as measured according to claim 1.

5. A compound of formula I

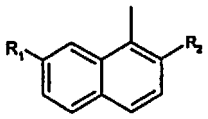


wherein

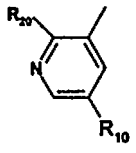
R_a is H; C_{1-4}alkyl; or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted by OH, NH_2, NHC_{1-4}alkyl or $N(di\text{-}C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$;

one of R_b, R_c, R_d and R_e is halogen; C_{1-4}alkoxy; C_{1-4}alkyl; CF_3 or CN and the other three substituents are each H; or R_b, R_c, R_d and R_e are all H; and

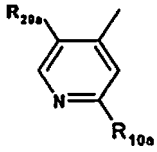
R is a radical of formula (a), (b) or (c)



(a)



(b)



(c)

wherein

R_1 is $-(CH_2)_n-NR_3R_4$,

wherein

each of R_3 and R_4, independently, is H or C_{1-4}alkyl; or R_3 and R_4 form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

R_2 is H; halogen; C_{1-4}alkyl; CF_3; OH; SH; NH_2; C_{1-4}alkoxy; C_{1-4}alkylthio; NHC_{1-4}alkyl; $N(di\text{-}C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$, CN, alkyne or NO_2;

wherein

each of R_{10} and R_{10a}, independently, is a heterocyclic residue; or a radical of formula α

$$-X\text{-}R_r\text{-}Y \qquad (\alpha)$$

wherein X is a direct bond, O, S or NR_{11} wherein R_{11} is H or C_{1-4}alkyl,
R_f is C_{1-4}alkylene or C_{1-4}alkylene wherein one CH_2 is replaced by CR_xR_y wherein one of R_x and R_y is H and the other is CH_3, each of R_x and R_y is CH_3 or R_x and R_y form together $-CH_2-CH_2-$,
Y is bound to the terminal carbon atom and is selected from OH, $-NR_{30}R_{40}$ wherein each of R_{30} and R_{40}, independently, is H, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl or C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, halogen, C_{1-4}alkoxy or $-NR_{50}R_{60}$ wherein each of R_{50} and R_{60}, independently, is H, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, or R_{30} and R_{40} form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue; and

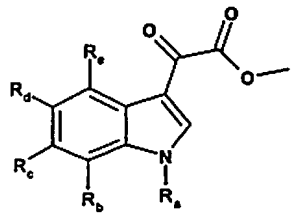
each of R_{20} and R_{20a}, independently, is H; halogen; C_{1-4}alkyl; C_{1-4}alkoxy; CF_3; nitrile; nitro or amino;
or a salt thereof.

6. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R_a is H or methyl; each of R_2, R_{20} and R_{20a}, independently, is H, Cl, NO_2, F, CF_3 or methyl, n is o or 1; one of R_b, R_c, R_d and R_e is methyl or ethyl and the other three substituents are H; or R_b, R_c, R_d and R_e are all H; and each of R_3 and R_4, independently, is H, methyl, ethyl or *i*-propyl; or R_3 and R_4 form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue optionally substituted; and each of R_1, R_{10} and R_{10a} ,independently, is a heterocyclic residue.

7. A compound according to claim 5 or 6 which is selected from
3-[5-Chloro-2-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridin-4-yl]-4-(1H-indol-3-yl)-pyrrole-2,5-dione;
3-(2-Chloro-7-dimethylaminomethyl-naphthalen-1-yl)-4-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-pyrrole-2,5-dione;
3-(7-Aminomethyl-2-Chloro-naphthalen-1-yl)-4-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-pyrrole-2,5-dione;
3-(2-Chloro-7-methylaminomethyl-naphthalen-1-yl)-4-(1H-indol-3-yl)-pyrrole-2,5-dione;
3-(2-Chloro-7-methylaminomethyl-naphthalen-1-yl)-4-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-pyrrole-2,5-dione;
3-(2-Chloro-7-methylaminomethyl-naphthalen-1-yl)-4-(7-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-pyrrole-2,5-dione;
3-(2-Chloro-7-methylaminomethyl-naphthalen-1-yl)-4-(6-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-pyrrole-2,5-dione;

12. A pharmaceutical combination comprising a compound according to any one of claims 2 to 7, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, and a further agent selected from immunosuppressant, immunomodulatory, anti-inflammatory, chemotherapeutic, antiproliferative and anti-diabetic agents.

13. A process for the production of a compound according to claim 5 or 6, which process comprises reacting a compound of formula II



II

wherein R_a to R_e are as defined in claim 5 ,

with a compound of formula III

$$R - CH_2 - CO - NH_2 \qquad (III)$$

wherein R is as defined in claim 5,

and, where required, converting the resulting compound of formula I obtained in free form to a salt form or vice versa, as appropriate.

14. A method for treating or preventing disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC, in particular allograft rejection, graft versus host disease, autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases, inflammatory diseases, cardiovascular diseases or cancer, in a subject in need of such a treatment, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of an inhibitor of PKC which possesses a selectivity for PKCα, PKCβ and optionally PKCθ, over one or more of the other PKC isoforms of at least 10 fold, as measured according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. A method for treating or preventing disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC, in particular allograft rejection, graft versus host disease, autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases, inflammatory diseases, cardiovascular diseases or cancer, in a subject in need of such a treatment, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 2 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.